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on said computer base, a display connected to said computer base and a receiver receiving said information by wireless transmission;

wherein said computer base of said portable computer has a recess for receiving said first input device, wherein said recess is mounted in front of said second input device.

Remarks

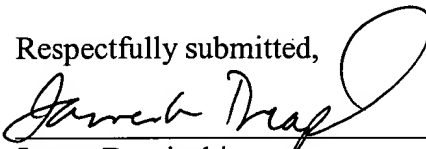
This Preliminary Amendment is being filed along with the above-identified continuation of patent application Serial No. 09/145,817. Entry of the amendments set forth in this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 9, 18, 19, 26 and 27 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, 8, 10-13, 16, 24 and 29-33 have been amended. New Claims 34-65 have been submitted. Support for the foregoing amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings in the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-0201 for any payment in connection with this amendment.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by this amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Claims 1-8, 10-17, 20-25, and 28-65 are pending and subject to examination. A favorable Action on the merits is solicited.

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Date

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In the Claims:

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10-13, 16, 24 and 29-33 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A notebook computer [to receive] capable of receiving infrared signals from an infrared input device, comprising:

a computer base section contain[ed]ing a keyboard and having a base frame;

a display section, said display section comprising a display frame with a bezel holding a liquid crystal display, said display section coupled to said computer base by hinges; and

an infrared sensor [coupled] attached to said notebook computer; wherein said infrared sensor is disposed on the display frame of said display section so that a wide angle infrared detection response is achieved.

2. (Amended) The notebook computer of Claim 1, wherein said infrared sensor is disposed on an upper portion of said frame of said display section [opposed to said hinges].

8. (Amended) The notebook computer of Claim 7, wherein said infrared [detectors] sensors are disposed proximate to the hinge region of said display frame.

10. (Amended) An input [unit] device for controlling [the cursor] positional information [of] ~~for~~ a computer, comprising:

a [frame] housing;

a ball capable of being rotated to determine the cursor position, the ball coupled to said [frame] housing;

an optical encoder comprising photo-interruptors disposed in said [frame]
housing, said optical encoder providing output signals in response to rotation of said ball; and

a control circuit disposed in said frame, said control circuit receiving as inputs said output signals of said optical encoder, said control circuit also capable of controlling the power to said photo-interruptors of said optical encoder;

wherein said control circuit conserves power by operating said optical encoder in a periodic-pulsed mode when said ball is at rest longer than a preselected time interval and said control circuit utilizes said signals of said encoder in said periodic-pulsed mode to determine when to resume a continuous position sensing encoder mode.

11. (Amended) The input device of Claim 10, further comprising an infrared transmitter coupled to said [frame] housing to transmit data pulses corresponding to the output signals of said optical encoder in the position sensing mode.

12. (Amended) The [mouse] input [unit] device of Claim 11, further comprising a range switch coupled to said [frame] housing, said range switch comprising at least two infrared transmitter power settings for said wireless transmitter.

13. (Amended) The input device of Claim 11 [in which] wherein the infrared transmitter transmits the data pulses as bytes with a start bit; and wherein [so that] no infrared data pulses are transmitted when said ball is in a quiescent state.

16. (Amended) A compact ergonomic multi-input infrared input [unit] device for a notebook computer designed to be operated in two different hand and finger positions, comprising[;]:

a [frame] housing, said [frame] housing having a substantially planar bottom surface, a substantially planar top surface, flared sides, and a first end and a second end;

at least one mouse button coupled to said top surface of said [frame] housing proximate to said first end;

a mouse ball coupled to said bottom surface of said [frame] housing;

an optical encoder coupled to said mouse ball, said optical encoder comprising photo-interruptors to measure the motion of said mouse ball;

a second pointing device emulating the pointing function of a mouse disposed on the top surface of said [frame] housing; and

an infrared transmitter coupled to said first end of said [frame] housing to transmit motion information from said rotary encoders and said second pointing device;

wherein said [frame] housing is dimensioned so that said input device may be operated as a mouse with the index and middle fingers of the hand on the top surface of said [frame] housing and with a portion of the thumb along the edge of said [frame] housing; and

wherein said [frame] housing is further dimensioned so that said input device may be held along its bottom surface in the palm of a hand with the entire top surface accessible by the thumb.

24. (Amended) A multi-input infrared input unit for a notebook, comprising[;]:

a [frame] housing, said [frame] housing having a substantially planar bottom surface, a substantially planar top surface, flared sides, and a first end and a second end;

at least one mouse button coupled to said top surface of said [frame] housing proximate to said first end;

a mouse ball coupled to said bottom surface of said [frame] housing;

an optical encoder coupled to said mouse ball, said optical encoder comprising photo-interruptors to measure the motion of said mouse ball;

a data input device to receive non-[cursor]pointer related information, said data input device disposed on said [frame] housing; and

an infrared transmitter coupled to said first end of said [frame] housing to transmit digital data;

a control circuit coupled to said optical encoder and said data input device; and

a mode control switch coupled to said control circuit, said mode control switch acting to select a mouse mode and at least one other data input mode;

wherein said control circuit acts in said mouse mode to transmit infrared data pulses corresponding to the state of said optical encoder and said control circuit acts in said data input mode to transmit infrared data pulses corresponding to information received by said data input device.

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29. (Amended) A[n] notebook computer system, comprising:

an infrared input [unit] device having a first [cursor] pointing device, said infrared input device transmitting [cursor] positional control information as infrared signals;

a notebook computer comprising a computer base section with a second [cursor] pointing device mounted on said computer base section and a display section comprising a frame with a bezel holding a liquid crystal display;

an infrared receiver coupled to said notebook computer to receive [cursor] positional control information from said infrared input [unit] device; and

a signal arbitration circuit to determine how inputs from said first [cursor] pointing device and said second [cursor] pointing device are used to control [cursor] pointer position;

wherein said infrared input [unit] device is dimensioned to fit into [a] said computer base section of said notebook computer.

30. (Amended) The notebook computer system of Claim 29, comprising a third pointing device connected to an external port wherein said signal arbitration circuit determines how inputs from [a] said first, second and third cursor [control] pointing devices are used [connected to an external port is used to control cursor position].

31. (Amended) The notebook computer system of Claim 30, wherein [the response] an arbitration criteria of said signal arbitration circuit is [programmable] user selectable as to which of said first, second and third pointing devices have priority or are locked-out.

32. (Amended) The notebook computer system of Claim 31, wherein said second [cursor] pointing device is always enabled and said [computer may be programmed] arbitration criteria may be selected to lock-out said inputs from said infrared input device.

33. (Amended) The notebook computer system of Claim [19] 29, wherein said notebook computer may be programmed to simultaneously accept inputs from both said second pointing device and said infrared input device.